



Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 04329.2722

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)

Hiroshi KUBOTA et al.)

Serial No.: Not Assigned / 01026566)

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Filed: December 27, 2001)

Examiner: Not Assigned

For: GAS CIRCULATING-
PROCESSING APPARATUS)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents:

1. Japanese Patent Application No. 9-251981 discloses a filter in a gas circulation line. (Figure 1; lines 17-20 of column 1, page 3; lines 37-38 of column 2, page 3).

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The relevance of this document is discussed beginning at page 1 and at page 5 of the specification of the present application.

2. Japanese Patent Application No. 10-122178 discloses injection of only inert gases into gas circulation equipment. (Line 13 of column 1, page 1; line 8 of column 1, page 2; line 16 of column 1, page 2; line 23 of column 1, page 2; line 48 of column 2, page 2; line 4 of column 1, page 3; line 14 of column 1, page 3; line 21 of column 1, page 3).

The relevance of this document is discussed at page 4 of the specification of the present application.

3. Japanese Patent Application No. 6-327924 discloses a filter in a gas circulation line. (Figures 1-4; line 35 of column 2, page 3; lines 18-22 of column 2, page 4).

An English-language abstract of each of the documents is also enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed

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documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 2, 2002

By: 

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Enclosures
RVB/FPD/sem

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